

**CANTON PARK COMMISSION  
BOARD MINUTES  
MONTHLY MEETING**

**JUNE 10, 2015**

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in a regular meeting on June 10, 2015.

Attendees:

Board Members: President - Andrew Black, Vice President – Wuyanbu Zutali

Staff Members Present: Park Director – Derek Gordon, Assistant Director – Dan Kunz, Office Manager - Theresa Gang,

Community Members: Councilmember Jim Griffin, Thomas Schmidt, AEP Representatives

The meeting was called to order at 4:15pm by President Black.

Meeting minutes from the May 13, 2015 regular Meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners.

Director Gordon informed the Commissioners that Mr. Thomas Schmidt had submitted an addendum to the minutes with his comments from the previous meeting that he would like added to the minutes. President Black explained that based on past practice it is board policy not to accept items retroactively into the minutes. However, these items can be added into the next minutes since they were now discussed at this meeting. President Black motioned to approve the minutes without the addendum. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. AEP Easement Proposal – Stadium Park – Director Gordon described the proposed easement from AEP along the Eastern boundary of I-77 in Stadium Park that is required to relocate the lines that must be moved as a result of the Hall of Fame developments. Director Gordon introduced two representatives from AEP who were in attendance to describe the project in more detail and answer any questions. President Black expressed significant concerns about the need to utilize the park property for this project as improving the visual aesthetics of the HOF property by removing the lines will decrease the visual aesthetics of the park. Director Gordon and the AEP representatives outlined the details of several possible financial and in kind considerations provided to the park by AEP for this relocation. President Black and Commissioner Zutali asked that consideration of this item be postponed until they are able to review these proposed easements on site.
2. 2017 Levy Discussion – Director provided a copy of the millage certification from the Stark County Auditor which will be presented on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> to City Council. At this time, Council will make a final determination consider a five (5) year levy for five (5) Mills to manage all park and recreation operations under the authority of the Canton Park Commission to commence in 2017. Director Gordon strongly encouraged the Commissioners to attend as there will likely be representatives from several stakeholders in attendance. Director Gordon also stated that he has continued to meet with all of the stakeholders that will be impacted by this levy to gauge their comfort level and receive feedback regarding the structure and impact of the new levy proposal.
3. Master Plan Update –Director Gordon and the park and recreation staff continue to work with EDG to finalize the respective park and recreation master plans. A public meeting date of June 23<sup>rd</sup> has been selected to present the final recommendations to the public. Director Gordon met with the Mayor's Administration and

several City Councilpersons to review how these recommendations may impact their ward parks prior to the public presentation. Unfortunately, based on the lack of time to join two presentations the Recreation Master Plan will be presented separately from the Park Master Plan.

4. Mr. Thomas Schmidt – Skate Park Concerns – Mr. Schmidt addressed the Commission with numerous concerns about the impact of the proposed skate park at the Canton Lincoln Highway Station. Mr. Schmidt presented crime statistics in the area surrounding the train station and the proposed skate park location. He asked several questions about the justifications for the skate park and expressed his belief that the proposed grant and funding for the skate park are an excessive percentage of future park budgets. President Black expressed concerns about Mr. Schmidt's comments about criminal activity created by the development of the proposed skate park. He also referenced the successful progressive initiatives recently implemented by the Park Commission, such as the kayak program. He believes that Canton's continued struggle to retain constituents is a result of a general unwillingness to try new and progressive initiatives. He hopes that Mr. Schmidt and other opponents will hear out all of the potential benefits of a skate park at the upcoming public meeting before actively trying to stop the initiative. Commissioner Zutali expressed concerns about the potential location of the skate park. He also assured Mr. Schmidt that all park locations will be considered and no final decision has been made.
5. Harrisburg / Route 62 F-4 Letter – Director Gordon presented a copy of a letter from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) formalizing the request previously made by ODOT regarding the portion of Willig Field that will need to be altered as a result of the reconstruction of Harrisburg Road and Route 62. President Black motioned to approve the letter. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. 2015 Goose Reduction Program – Assistant Director Dan Kunz updated the Commission on the department's goose reduction efforts and the status of approval from the Ohio Division of Wildlife for a Round Up Permit to remove the geese later this year. Mr. Kunz formally requested Commission approval to apply for the permit and to conduct the round up within the next few weeks contingent upon approval from the Ohio Division of Wildlife. He stated that the round up would be conducted by park personnel and the geese would be processed for food donations to the Stark County Hunger Task Force pending their approval of acceptance. President Black motioned to approve the permit application. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Garden Center Agreement – Director Gordon presented a final agreement between the Canton Park Commission and the Canton Garden Center regarding the use of the Garden Center building. Director Gordon stated that the current agreement is extremely outdated and does not address many new considerations and includes items that are no longer relevant. A meeting was held with the Garden Center representatives to gain their input on the agreement and a few adjustments were made to the agreement prior to the Law Department's review. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the agreement. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **EVENT REQUESTS**

1. Fundraiser for Damon Anderson – Schreiber Park – June 14<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the event. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Fundraiser for Martha Gordon – Garaux – September 6<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the event. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center - Out of the Darkness Walk – Westbrook Park – September 20<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the event. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Youth Drive and Talent Competition – Nimisilla Park – July 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the event contingent upon the Director's review of the use of the revenues from event fees. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Jackson Park – Adopt-A-Park Agreement – Director Gordon presented a copy of a proposed adopt-a-park agreement with the Canton Cross Club at Jackson Park. As a part of this agreement the Cross Club will develop a large scale community garden in conjunction with multiple local churches to help supply produce to the local neighborhood. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the agreement. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Recreation Report – None
3. Financial Report - President Black motioned to approve the report. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Director's Report – Director Gordon presented his monthly report to the Commission. (See Attached)

Commissioner Black motioned to adjourn at 6:20pm. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Next Park Commission Meeting to be held at 4:00pm on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Canton Park and Recreation Offices.

---

Andy Black, President

---

Derek Gordon, Director